

Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act of 1997
(P. L. 104-208)

Signed by the President on September 30, 1996

Chapter 5: Department of Transportation (FAA)

The omnibus additional appropriations were all made part of the DOD Appropriations for FY97 in H.R. 3610. Pages 525-6 and 1185-6 of the Conference Report for that bill dated September 28, 1996, contain the following information. All amounts are designated by Congress as emergency requirements. In parentheses or noted as from the "Conference Report" is included pertinent conference report language that further explains congressional intent about how the money should be spent.

FAA Operations: "For additional operating expenses" of FAA for airport security activities \$57,900,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 1998:

- \$8,900,000 shall be for establishment of additional explosive detection K-9 teams at airports ("...114 explosive detection K-9 teams at airports. These dog and trainer teams will be used for tasks that include inspection of suspicious baggage, cargo, as well as aircraft and parked vehicles located on airport grounds.");
- \$5,500,000 shall be for airport vulnerability assessments ("...to conduct periodic vulnerability assessments and develop action plans for each airport, in accord with models developed by Sandia National Laboratory.");
- \$18,000,000 shall be for the hire of additional aviation security personnel ("...for the FAA to hire 300 additional FAA aviation security personnel, in order to establish special security teams to aggressively test security measures at individual airports."); and,
- \$25,500,000 shall...hire of additional aviation safety..."

FAA Facilities and Equipment: "For additional necessary expenses for F&E, \$147,700,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 1999: provided that...\$144, 200,000 shall only be for non-competitive contracts or cooperative agreements with air carriers and airport authorities, which provide for the FAA to purchase and assist in installation of advanced security equipment for the use of such entities..."

Conference Report: "...for explosive detection devices and other advanced security equipment to improve security at our nation's airports. The conferees believe it is imperative that FAA expeditiously field these systems to reduce the threat of terrorist action and gain experience so that existing protocols and standards be further strengthened."

FAA Research, Engineering and Development: "For an additional amount for R,E&D, \$21,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 1999: Provided, that the funds provided shall only be for aviation security research and operational testing of document trace scanners and explosive detection portals for airport passengers..."

Conference Report: "The conference agreement includes \$21,000,000 for increased airport security research and to conduct operational testing of new trace explosive detection systems for documents (e.g., boarding passes and passports) and passengers. This raises existing funds for airport security research by approximately 50 percent."

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 5501. In fiscal year 1997, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may establish at individual airports such consortia of government and aviation industry representatives as the Administrator may designate to provide advice on matters related to aviation security and safety: Provided, That such consortia shall not be considered Federal advisory committees.

Prepared by Courtney Tucker (ACP-4)----October 23, 1996---Revised May 25, 1997